

# Forsaken, But Not Forever

Let's begin this morning by talking about baseball. It's springtime. Major League baseball has only just begun. The Blue Jays are doing worse than they have ever done in their history, and thus the Blue Jay fans in our midst need some encouragement. So we will begin with a quick story of one of the greatest sports turnarounds in the history of baseball. Let us discuss a major leaguer pitcher who had one of the greatest career turnarounds in any sport.

12 year career

First 6 years:

- Only 76 starts
- 36 wins, 40 losses
- First two years he had 30 strikeouts in each, but also 28 and 29 walks respectively
- He won no awards
- End of 6<sup>th</sup> season he threw his glove and cleats in the garbage

Last 6 years:

- 176 starts
- 129 wins to only 47 losses
- 382 strike outs one year
- 4 no hitters, 4 World Series Championships, 3 Cy Young awards, 2 World Series MVP awards, and a perfect game

**Sandy Koufax** had one of the greatest turnarounds in the history of professional sports. His name is now synonymous with dominating pitching. This should give you Blue Jays fans some hope for this year.

In Psalm 22 we see a stunning turnaround. From the early verses of lament the psalmist leads us through a "180" as we consider the last half of the psalm. As we hear from God's Word in Psalm 22, I encourage you to be watchful for the turnaround as you also keep in mind that this weekend, this Sunday, we celebrate the most glorious turnaround in the history of the universe.

**Psalm 22:19-31 (ESV)**

*19 But you, O Lord, do not be far off!*

*O you my help, come quickly to my aid!*

*20 Deliver my soul from the sword,*

*my precious life from the power of the dog!*

*21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!*

*You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!*

*22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;*

*in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:*

*23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!*

*All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,*

*and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*

*24 For he has not despised or abhorred*

*the affliction of the afflicted,*

*and he has not hidden his face from him,*

*but has heard, when he cried to him.*

*25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;*

*my vows I will perform before those who fear him.*

*26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;*

*those who seek him shall praise the Lord!*

*May your hearts live forever!*

*27 All the ends of the earth shall remember*

*and turn to the Lord,*

*and all the families of the nations*

*shall worship before you.*

*28 For kingship belongs to the Lord,*

*and he rules over the nations.*

*29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;*

*before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,*

*even the one who could not keep himself alive.*

*30 Posterity shall serve him;*

*it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;*

*31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,*

*that he has done it.*

## The Forsaken David

For the Forsaken – Petition – 19-21

*19 But you, O Lord, do not be far off!*

*O you my help, come quickly to my aid!*

*20 Deliver my soul from the sword,*

*my precious life from the power of the dog!*

*21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!*

*You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!*

- David's prayer is fairly simple: "rescue me from my enemies and deliver me from death"
- Desperation and urgency climax with the sword, the dog, the lion, and the wild oxen all vividly portraying the danger of death
- Continued sense of forsakenness – both Calvin and Luther suggest that "my precious life" is a phrase that is better understood to suggest a life that is forsaken and forlorn
- All the commentaries I consulted: 21b on ["you have rescued me"] is from the perspective of someone whose prayers have been answered – a startling turnaround from verse 1-2: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest."

For the Brothers – Praise – 22-26

*22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:*

*23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!*

*24 For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard, when he cried to him.*

*25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.*

*26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!*

- Rhythm of prayer: Expressing yourself to God, declaring truth about God, prayer for deliverance

- The completion of this rhythm is praise: “I will praise you”

- He vows to praise God in the midst of his friends and family

- He urges others to join him in praise

*The culmination of personal trials  
is corporate praise !!*

- Verse 24 is striking: “For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.” – The seemingly despised is NOT despised after all. God’s face is NOT hidden. He HAS heard and he HAS answered!

- Yogi Berra: “It ain’t over till it’s over.”

- *in the midst of your physical infirmity*
  - *in the deep darkness of your mental anguish*
  - *in the chaos of your emotional turmoil*
  - *in the pain of your relational conflict*

For the World – Proclamation -- 27-31

*27 All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.*

*28 For kingship belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.*

*29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
even the one who could not keep himself alive.*

*30 Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;*

*31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.*

- The psalmist anticipates that people from every corner of the globe will come to faith when they hear what God has done. Why? Because “kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.” He is sovereign.
- Everything that has happened in the life of the psalmist and in the lives of every human being that has ever lived is heading towards world-wide worship of God
- Even those not yet born will hear of God’s deliverance and will serve him
- Verse 31: He. Has. Done. It.

↳ when we are honest about the turnarounds in our life, especially our spiritual turn from walking in darkness to walking in light, then all we can say is ⇒ He. Has. Done. It.

David had something for his  
• breakers → prayer  
• brothers → praise  
• world → proclamation of their coming to God

## The Forsaken Son of David

We have established that Psalm 22 is about both David and his great Son, Jesus.

The connections are obvious as one reads the Psalm. Jesus confirms that the psalm is about him when he cries “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

from the cross. And the NT writers also confirm that this psalm is about Jesus as well as David.

*Is the “turnaround” theme present in the experience of Jesus in regards to Psalm 22? We know it is, so let's see!*

For the Forsaken – Petition – 19-21

- Did Jesus petition God to deliver him?
- **Hebrews 5:7 (ESV)** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death ...
- **Luke 22:39-44 (ESV)** And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.
- 21c – David said “You have rescued me” – David was feeling forsaken, David prayed for deliverance, God rescued him from death
- Jesus also felt forsaken. Jesus also prayed for deliverance, but Jesus died. Can Psalm 22 really be about Jesus? Did God rescue him?

- In **Ephesians 1:15-23** Paul prays that the Ephesians would know <sup>19</sup> what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. *The one who was dead is ...*
  - Seated at the right hand of God, above all earthly and spiritual powers, above every name from every age with all things under his feet – This sounds like deliverance. This sounds like salvation. This sounds like winning. *All this coming out of the resurrection.*
- God did indeed rescue and deliver Jesus, but at a different time than David and in a different way. Between verse 21 and 22, the resurrection occurred!
  - Verse 21 starts with “save me” and finishes with “you have rescued me.” Verse 22 begins with praise.
- The resurrection is the means that God used to create the greatest turnaround in the history of the cosmos. The resurrection took Jesus from the deepest depths of lament that any being could ever know, to the greatest heights of praise and glory that is possible\*. Can it be said that God, despite Jesus’s brutal suffering and crushing death, delivered his Son and saved him? The resurrection is an infinite and eternal “yes” to that question.

*From “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”;  
from “It is finished” to “Into your hands I commit my spirit”;  
from “they laid him in a tomb to*

## For the Brothers – Praise – 22-26

- **Thomas Scott** [(1747–1821) was an influential preacher and author] in his best-selling work *A Commentary On The Whole Bible*: “This verse [22] is expressly applied to our Lord by the apostle: (Note, Hebrews 2:10-13 :) and the subsequent part of the psalm is as evidently prophetic of his glory and the success of his gospel, as the foregoing part is of his sufferings. The whole psalm is allowed to be highly poetical; but this transition is peculiarly beautiful. For here the scene at once changes and brightens. The Saviour turns his eyes from his sufferings, to the glory which followed ... and, anticipating the extensive and permanently blessed effects of his passion and exaltation, he breaks forth into exulting predictions and praises at the prospect.”

\*turn around  
from v21 to  
v22

- **Hebrews 2:10-13 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup> For it was fitting that he [God], for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup> saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

<sup>13</sup> And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

- We also see that this “telling your name to my brothers” and the singing of praise “in the midst of the congregation” was after his resurrection: **Hebrews 2:14-15 (ESV)** “that through death” he might destroy the devil and his work of death
  - Jesus gives praise ~~after~~ despite his death because he was raised



- Verse 24 looms large in this section: “For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.”
- **Hebrews 5:7 (ESV)** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
- Jesus was heard. Proof: Resurrection. Jesus was not ultimately despised. Proof: Resurrection. Jesus was rescued. Proof: Resurrection.

- The cross demands our penance. The empty tomb elicits our praise.

- The cross gave rise to worry. The abandoned grave clothes gave rise to worship

- The death of Christ causes apprehension. The resurrection of Christ leads to appreciation.

For the World - Proclamation - v27-31

What was the proclamation that David made? Essentially, that God would turn many people to him. God would be worshipped by a multitude of people from all parts of the earth as a result of the salvation Yahweh worked for David. And yet, David’s own legacy did not impact the world to the degree that Psalm 22 seems to indicate. David must have been describing the salvation of another that his was only a shadow of.

Did Jesus have a similar proclamation? Would the result of God’s salvation in the resurrection of Jesus result in many people turning to God and coming to him in worship?

- In **Hebrews 2:10 (ESV)**, just before verse 12 where the writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 22 in reference to Jesus, we read “For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.”

- Follow me, then, through a couple Scripture passages to look into this bringing many sons to glory that was the result of God saving resurrection of Jesus!
- **Luke 24:1-7 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb [**a turnaround is coming...you can feel it**], <sup>3</sup>but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup>And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.”
  - In sports you can sense the turnaround coming; a change in momentum, you can almost “feel” it in the atmosphere, little signs on the field (a dropped ball, an error on a simple play, a reaction of anxiety in the opposition). They should have sensed the turnaround on that first Easter weekend: darkness at noon, the earth shaking, the veil being torn in two, the empty turnaround!
- **Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>**He presented himself alive to them** after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
<sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you

heard from me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

→ Is → the world will turn  
Heb → many sons to glory

- The tomb was empty – Jesus presented himself to his people – he leaves the earth – he promises to return. What does his return have to do with the proclamation in Psalm 22? Follow with me through a few more steps to see the proclamation that comes out of the working of God’s salvation in Jesus’s resurrection
- **Colossians 3:4 (ESV)** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (returns)
- **1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 (ESV)** <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words. ← death + rez  
← return  
← in glory

Rev 7:9-10 brings the themes of the sacrifice of the Son, the salvation of God, and the bringing of many sons to glory together. This is the<sup>1st</sup> proclamation coming from the resurrection!

David recognized that the whole world would turn to God and worship Yahweh. That was his proclamation. Hebrews speaks of the same thing in another way: the result of Jesus's salvation would be the bringing of many sons to glory. This is finalized when we see him and appear with him in glory and so we will always be with him in glory!

We get God! This is the ultimate result of the resurrection! If Jesus wasn't raised, we above all men are to be pitied. We might still have forgiveness. God's wrath might still be averted. We might still be free from bondage to sin and Satan. But if Jesus remains dead, we don't get God. And even with all those wonderful blessings, if we are ultimately without god, we are to be pitied. But, the proclamation is: Because of the resurrection, we get God. Because of the salvation God worked in Jesus, after he was already dead, we will be with Jesus in glory. Because of the deliverance of the Son of God by the hand of God, we will be with him forever!

- 1) This is our proclamation and we need to proclaim it. GOSPEL
- 2) Let's conclude this service with celebratory praise for the salvation that God worked for Jesus in his resurrection, and for us in his life, death, and resurrection.

Resurrection is the ultimate answer to every request for salvation!